

Community Connection



Message from the Mayor

The Election Day of October 12 seems like an age away. But in the short time since, there has been much that indicates that the optimistic and positive message that

was given to the district that day, will continue throughout this term.

As a Council, we have much to do over the next three years. There are a number of issues that will present some real challenges, but I am confident that collectively we will meet and overcome those challenges. I am looking forward to working with our elected members to achieve that.

Thank you to you, our community, for the sensible and responsible way you have voted. You have delivered a team of people who I think are well placed to serve this community over the next three years.

There has been a significant shift in thinking and perception since October 12. I can assure you that this team of elected members will honour the oath that we have taken.

It is a privilege for me to be the new Mayor of this district. I am well aware of the responsibility and the expectation that I, and all of this Council have in front of us.

Inside this issue:

- Horowhenua gets Second Green Flag, p.2
- Feedback sought on Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy, p.3
- Let me be myself Exhibition, p.3
- Foxton Heritage, p.4

New Council and Community Board sworn-in

Horowhenua's Elected Members attended their first official meeting for the 2019-2022 triennium last week.

The Swearing-In Ceremony was held in Council Chambers last Wednesday evening, with most elected members attending alongside their family and friends.

Earlier in the month the newly elected members had been welcomed into Council's main office with a pōwhiri.

New District Mayor Bernie Wanden was the first to be sworn-in and was presented with the Mayoral Chains from Council's Chief Executive David Clapperton.

Council welcomed three new Councillors including Sam Jennings (Levin ward), Robert Ketu (Miranui ward) and David Allan (Kere Kere ward). Cr Allan had previously served on Council and the Foxton Community Board.

Newly elected Councillor Todd Isaacs (Levin Ward) put in his apologies and would be sworn-in at Council's next Ordinary meeting later this month.

He will be joined by returning Councillors Jo Mason and Wayne Bishop who also couldn't attend the Inaugural meeting.

At the meeting Council Mayor Wanden announced Cr Mason as his Deputy Mayor, following consultation with his fellow Councillors.

"It has been a pleasure working with Jo over the last term, both on Council and on the Hearings Committee. The way she chaired those committees, her empathy with the public and her commitment to the role signalled to me that she has the capability and the qualities to do an outstanding job as Deputy Mayor".

Also sworn-in were the Foxton Community Board members including new members Ngaire Newland and Trevor Chambers. They joined returning board members David Roache, Tricia Metcalf and John Girling.

Mr Roache was then voted in as Board chairperson and Ms Metcalf as deputy chairperson for the second triennium in a row.

Council's next Ordinary meeting will occur on 13 November 2019, with the next Foxton Community Board meeting taking place on 25 November 2019.



Love Your Loo

Horowhenua District Council is asking residents to Love Your Loo.

This comes after a number of items have been flushed down the drain causing blockages.

Horowhenua Alliance Manager Neil Cherry said on average his staff were attending 5 pump station blockages a week.

"When we have staff spending more than 10 hours a week, clearing items out of the pump station that should not have been flushed, it is costing the ratepayer thousands of dollars a year".

Wet wipes were the biggest offender, however staff were clearing blockages caused by a range of items including garden hose fittings, sanitary pads and uncapped syringes with exposed needles.

"5 blockages have been caused by underwear. Considering these are cleared by hand, it is pretty disgusting for our staff to have to deal with" Mr Cherry said.

Council was hopeful that once residents learnt what was and wasn't flushable and how much of a pain on the drain these items were causing, people's habits would change.

"We want Horowhenua to love their loo and to think of what they are flushing down the drain. The easiest way to remember was to think of the 3 P's; only flush paper, poo and peel!" Mr Cherry said.

Part of the challenge, Mr Cherry acknowledged, was that many products claimed to be flushable.

"Just because something can go down the toilet, doesn't mean that it should or that it is safe to do so. Wet wipes do not disintegrate or break down in the same way toilet paper does".



Horowhenua gets second Green Flag

A second Horowhenua park has received an international award, making it only one of 26 in the country.

Last year Thompson House Gardens was awarded a Green Flag, and this year Driscoll Reserve in Manakau was also awarded the distinction.

Green Flag Awards recognise and reward well-managed parks and green spaces, and aim to ensure everyone has access to good quality green spaces that meet the needs of the community.

Applicants for the Green Flag are judged against 27 criteria, and must demonstrate a good understanding of the park site and its users, as well as an active management plan.

Council's Property and Parks Manager Arthur Nelson said the Green Flag scheme is considered an international benchmark for good management of outdoor recreational spaces.

"To have received two Green Flags, in a district as small as Horowhenua, is an honour and demonstrates that we are creating spaces that meet the needs of our community".

The Green Flags scheme is administered for the UK Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government by UK-based environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, which sub-licences it to the New Zealand Recreation Association in this country.



Pipes under Levin's main roundabout to be upgraded

Old water pipes under Levin's main roundabout are getting replaced, providing more capacity in the water network.

Residents and visitors will find contractors beginning work on the Queen Street/Cambridge Street roundabout later this month.

Horowhenua Alliance Project Manager Gerry O'Neill said it wasn't enough to just repair the old pipes.

"Repairs may remove defects for the short-term but it will not necessarily solve the issues long term. Replacing them now also allows us to provide for future demand".

The Alliance will have open trenches to access and remove the old pipes and will

also be undertaking direct drilling where possible.

Mr O'Neill said the roads will remain open most of the time, however there will be occasions when it will be restricted to one lane and footpaths will be closed.

"We are asking our community to avoid the roundabout during this period, if they can. There will be times when the road will be narrow or it takes longer to get around the roundabout".

Alliance staff were looking at options that would minimise the impact on the community and local businesses.

Work is expected to be completed in December 2019.



Feedback sought on Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy

The strategy to oversee the planning, investment and delivery of transport-related infrastructure in Horowhenua for the next 30 years has reached its next milestone.

Public comments will be sought on the vision and principles of the Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy (HITS), along with viewpoints on potential projects.

The vision of the draft strategy is to provide Horowhenua with a safe, functional, innovative, integrated, multimodal and sustainable transport system that supports a thriving, healthy and growing community and enhances the visitor experience.

Principal Policy Advisor Cynthia Ward said the vision was created following public and stakeholder engagement earlier this year.

"Essentially, HITS will be a strategy that allows Horowhenua to take concerted and purposive actions in terms of transport," said Mrs Ward. "It will help give effect to the objectives of the Horowhenua Growth Strategy 2040 and Levin Town Centre Strategy while supporting the investment in increasing public transport options."

Mrs Ward said the purpose of the engagement process is to seek public, stakeholder and partner feedback to see if we've got the focus right and to start a conversation about our focus going forward.

"There are many projects that will need to be undertaken, some we can do ourselves and others that will require NZTA and Horizons Regional Council funding or support. We need to hear from the public as to what is

most important in their minds so that we can focus on those areas as we work towards achieving a safer, productive, user friendly transportation network with increased options for our residents to get around.

The HITS strategy takes into account the future Ōtaki to North of Levin Expressway and Council's Long Term Plan.

Feedback on the draft strategy is welcome from 11 November 2019 through to 6 December 2019. Find out more by visiting Have Your Say on horowhenua.govt.nz, or pick up a copy of the HITS engagement document from any Council service centre.



Let Me Be Myself

The ground-breaking Anne Frank exhibition – 'Let Me Be Myself' has opened in Foxton.

The dynamic exhibition created by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam has already visited 80 countries, and has been seen by more than 10 million people globally.

The Oranjehof national Dutch museum is proud to host the exhibition, in the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom Gallery.

"This is a very important exhibition for us," says Yolande van de Wetering, Co-Chair of the Oranjehof Dutch Connection Museum Trust. "I grew up in an era, when the story of Anne Frank and her diary was still very much front of mind."

"The horrors of World War II and the 5-year German occupation were fresh in everybody's memories in the Netherlands. Families would talk about their personal experiences, as many had been traumatised. In total some 250,000 Dutch people died – or one in every 40 people. And that included more than 100,000 Jews who were deported, and never returned from the death camps."

"Educating the younger generations about the ultimate consequences of racism is still very relevant today," says Yolande.

The Exhibition

The Diary of Anne Frank captures the real-life story of a young girl, in hiding with her family from the Nazis, in an attic in Amsterdam.

The Exhibition arrived in New Zealand in 2018, and opened at the Auckland War Memorial Museum in January where it engaged over 35,000 visitors in just three short months.

Using a combination of excerpts from Anne Frank's famous diary, historical artefacts, pictures, video and testimony, the exhibition walks you through the life of the Frank family and the history of the era. It also engages visitors in a discussion about how the same themes affect our modern world.

Drawing on the experiences of teenagers today, the exhibition talks about disability, prejudice, homophobia and racism in the 21st century. It challenges the visitor to examine their own core, moral values.

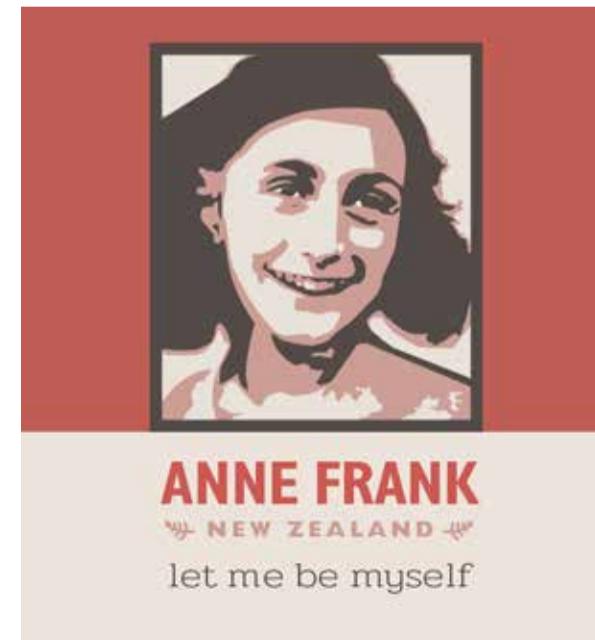
Additional material – including a testimony from a Māori boy and a British immigrant girl – bring the New Zealand experience into sharp focus.

A specific education programme for schools, designed by the Anne Frank House, is part of this exhibition that aims to promote tolerance and good citizenship in New Zealand.

Translation into Te Reo Māori

Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl has recently been translated into Māori by Te Haumihiata Mason: Te Rātaka a Tētahi Kōhine. The Diary will be available at the exhibition.

At the launch of the book, Te Haumihiata addressed Anne Frank directly: "Your honesty and the hardships you experienced guided my translation of your diary. You died young, but your words have lived on, and will forever continue to inspire the world."



1 November until
Monday 2 March 2020



Foxton Heritage

Libraries Horowhenua has opened a fantastic new Heritage Room at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. This was in response to local and visitor interest in Local and Family History and a greater need for increased heritage resources in the area. The team at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom have worked very hard to have the room ready to support the community with access to online resources such as Kete Horowhenua, Ancestry, Family Search, Papers Past and much more.

Local Information, Research and Local History Librarian, Kiri Makareta Nga-Rita Pepene also encourages people to bring in their photos and documents which can be added to Kete Horowhenua to celebrate our place, who we are and how we live.

Kiri will be in the room every Friday to answer enquiries and will eventually be joined by trained volunteers. It's expected to be a popular addition to our facility especially over the busy summer season.

Any enquires email heritage@horowhenua.govt.nz.



What's happening

1 to 2

Friday 1 November 2019 until Monday 2 March 2020

Anne Frank, NZ - Let Me Be Myself - Exhibition

**Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
Open daily**

The Diary of Anne Frank captures the real-life story of a young girl, hiding from the Nazis, in an attic in Amsterdam, during World War II. *Students Free Entry, \$2 for Horowhenua Library Card holders or \$5 adults*

**16 Saturday 16 November
Ōhau School Ag Day**

Ōhau School. 9:30am – 1:30pm

Lots of fun, food and live entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. *Free Entry.*

**23 Saturday 23 November
Horowhenua Taste Trail**

Ōhau School 9:30am – 1:30pm

Take part in an event that celebrates the richness and diversity of all that is grown and produced in this bite-sized district. The Horowhenua Taste Trail provides a unique opportunity to get behind the scenes, and sample delicious fresh produce, directly from the source. *Adult tickets from \$20 - \$150 Ticket options & bookings on www.tastetrail.co.nz.*

30

**Saturday 30 November
Christmas Lights for Christmas
Nights**

Levin Adventure Park. 6:30 – 9:30pm

Bring your whānau, friends, a picnic/dinner and join us for a special family event at the Adventure Park where the Christmas Lights will be turned on for the festive season. *Free Entry.*

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**Sunday 1 December
Santa Paws**

Kōwhai Park. 9am – 12 noon

Santa Paws is coming to town! Bring your pet to Kōwhai Park and get your complete family Santa Paws photo taken. Photos cost \$5 for a digital copy that will be emailed to you, taken by a professional photographer. All funds raised go directly to the Horowhenua SPCA.

14

**Saturday 14 December
Community Christmas Carnival**

Parade starts at 3pm

Register your float. If you would like to participate in the parade or enter a float, you can do this online: www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Christmascarnival. *Registrations close at 5pm on Monday, 2 December 2019.*

**For further details and events visit
www.horowhenua.govt.nz/events**

Armistice Day

11 November 2019

10:40am – Levin Cenotaph
10:45am – Foxton Cenotaph

Council Meetings

Council

13 Wednesday 13 November at 4pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Community Wellbeing Committee

19 Tuesday 19 November at 1pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Foxton Community Board

25 Friday 25 November at 6pm, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom 92 Main Street, Foxton. Come in at 5:30pm to meet Board Members.

Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee

27 Wednesday 27 November at 4pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Christmas Lights for Christmas Nights



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**Saturday 30 November 2019
Levin Adventure Park
Starts at 6.30pm**



ANNE FRANK

NEW ZEALAND

let me be myself

'Let Me Be Myself - Exhibition'

I November until Monday 2 March 2020

Open Daily

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom